

Area Committee and community engagement

Themed area committee meetings:

The area committee agreed to themed area committee meetings at the last meeting, linked to their new accountability role over the themed partnerships that previously reported to the South District Partnership.

Provisional forward plan

- June/July – no theme
- September – Children & Young People’s Partnership
- October/November – Divisional Community Safety Partnership
- December – South Leeds Employment, Education and Training Partnership
- February 2009 – South East District Housing Partnership (and environment)
- March/April – Health & Wellbeing OR Community cohesion subgroup

The area committee is requested to agree the forward plan and themes as suggested. Members are requested to note that discussions are ongoing with partners to secure their commitment to these themed meetings and therefore the final timetable may require adjusting depending on the outcome of these discussions. The area committee will be kept updated on any proposed changes.

Ward events

The area committee have agreed two events per ward per annum. On top of this for summer 2008 there is also the commitment for an area committee / area management stall with display at the following festivals and galas to promote the work of the committee and raise its public profile;

Beeston - 14th June
Hunslet - 21st June
Cottingley - 5th July
Middleton - 6th July
Holbeck - 9th August

Members were asked at the last area committee meeting to indicate their preference for when the ward events should be held, and for any suggestions on the content and style. Some discussion has taken place since the meeting, however to progress organising the events, members are requested to consider the type of event, when and where they would like to hold each event and let the area management team know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be put in place to organise them. To aid members in deciding what sort of event they wish to hold, the following methods of engagement could be organised;

Market Place event: Where services, agencies and voluntary organisations showcase what they do and provide information and opportunities for residents to make comment on issues that affect them. Each organisation is allocated a ‘stall’ and the layout is arranged much like a market where residents can move from one

stall to another. Ward members have a stall which promotes the area committee and their local leadership role as representing the community. Members can also choose to formally 'open' the market if they choose.

Planning for Real event: Planning for Real is a toolkit nationally recognised as an effective and creative way of involving people in identifying issues/opportunities in their area. Ward members could choose one particular theme that may be an issue for that ward (for example the environment). Tables are then set up in a room with large scale maps of the ward mounted on polystyrene on each table. Each table is then given a theme (for example green space, or waste and recycling). Residents are asked to use 'flags' (card on cocktail sticks!) to indicate where this issue takes place in the ward, and also asked to help suggest what they think would be a good solution to the issue. They can write this on the card. Each table is facilitated by an appropriate officer (eg green space table by a Parks & Countryside officer). The issues raised and solutions suggested can then be used to inform future planning for services, and for the Area Delivery Plan and potentially for new Well-Being Funded projects.

'Face the People' event: A style of event promoted by Safer Leeds, this is where senior representatives of a particular sector (eg crime and disorder) meet the public to hear their issues and let them know about action that they have taken or will take to tackle them. The format of this can vary, from a 'panel of experts' in a question time format, to a more informal layout with tables cabaret style and senior representatives sat on each one.

Whatever style of event members choose, it is suggested that the event is used as an opportunity to showcase projects and initiatives that have successfully taken place in the ward as a result of area committee funding or influence over the past couple of years. This would hopefully enable residents to make the link between improvements on the ground and the role of local members and the area committee in achieving them.